

[16th March 1928]

(b) whether it is a fact that the district authorities are neglecting and postponing general repairs to the tank although the Government have from time to time sanctioned some amount towards the expenses for the repair of the said tank;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Madura is demanding contributions from the ayacutdars towards the repair of the tank; and

(d) whether it is a fact that repairs to the tank is postponed since the ryots are not prepared to contribute?

A.—The Government do not know whether or not the facts are as stated.

The Government do not sanction sums for expenditure on individual tanks.

[*Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.*]

II

ELECTION TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHARATTA RAILWAY COMPANY.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“I have to announce to the House that M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu Garu and Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur have been elected as Members of the Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company.”

III

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1928-29.

DEMAND IV—FOREST.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The debate on this demand closes at 12-15. The House will resume discussion on Mr. Harisarvottama Rao's motion, viz., to reduce the allotment of Rs. 95,900 for General Direction by Rs. 100.”

* Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—“As regards the other presidencies where this department is managed, we see from the statistics that they are managing it much better than what it is done here. In Bengal the revenue from the forests is 27 lakhs whereas the expenditure is 17 lakhs; Bombay 73 lakhs revenue and 37 lakhs expenditure; United Provinces 57 lakhs revenue and 34 lakhs expenditure; Central Provinces 56 lakhs against 39 lakhs; Punjab 43 lakhs against 34 lakhs; Burma 190 lakhs against 94 lakhs; Madras 53 lakhs against 46 lakhs expenditure. Then, Sir, in answer to this, it is stated that this is a department where development is required. Unfortunately our valuable forests are in obscure places and in rough places and they say that so much spade work is required and so much capital investment is required and so we have to spend more than what is ordinarily wanted.

“So far as capital expenditure is concerned, my submission to this House is that capital expenditure should not be met from ordinary revenues. This is a commercial business and wherever capital expenditure is required it ought to be met from borrowed money and not from ordinary revenues.